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Avalanche Notes

U.S. Forest Service
Westwide Avalanche Network

January 1985

Oops! We goofed. Did you notice that the December 1984 Notes was misdated 1985? Please correct this on your copy. This is called the reverse first-of-the-year checkbook syndrome.

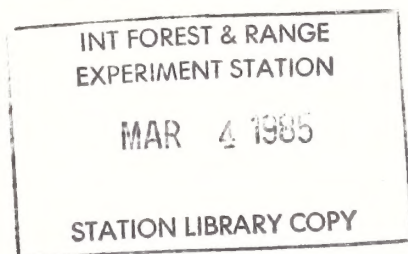
Except for parts of Colorado, January was a dry month in the mountains of the West, and in the Pacific Northwest, it was the driest January of record. No site in the Cascades of Washington and Oregon recorded as much as even 9 inches of snowfall. As a percentage of normal, amounts ranged from 1-6%. Most sites there recorded no avalanches for the month. Northward, Alyeska, AK managed 73% of normal snowfall, but had a busy avalanche month. South along the coast, in the Sierra, storms were only slightly more frequent than in the Cascades. Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley, CA both recorded 33% of normal snows. This was their second driest January on record. Alpine Meadows still managed to release more than 100 avalanches, most falling on the 26th.

In the Intermountain area, storms missed Sun Valley, ID almost altogether: only 8% of normal snowfall fell there for its driest January ever. Elsewhere, Bridger Bowl, MT managed 61% of normal; Snowbird, UT, 53%; and Alta, UT, 47%.

Colorado showed a broad variation in snowfall amounts. At the low end were Crested Butte (47%) and Gothic (58%), while at the high end were Copper Mtn. (114%) and Vail (136%). In between were Loveland Pass (66%), Wolf Creek (79%), Berthoud Pass and Breckenridge (94%), and Monarch (98%). The big snowfall day was the 22nd when 7-18 inches fell. Vail benefited from 40 inches on the 19th-22nd. Taos, NM came in with 110% of normal snowfall.

Avalanche totals and accidents were far below their January norms. A total of seven accidents caught seven people. No victims were totally buried, and only one sustained injury -- a patroller at Bridger Bowl on the 3rd. A car was struck but not damaged on Loveland Pass on the 22nd. The winter's statistics thru January are tabulated below.

The end of January also brought the end of an era. The Forest Service Avalanche Research Project in Fort Collins, CO has closed its doors and filled in its snowpit. Budget cuts. For 24 years, Pete Martinelli was the only leader the project had ever had. Pete has retired, and the other scientists have been assigned to other projects. Who will fill the void?



Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station

Total Avalanches Reported

Damage Summary - This Winter

Area	This Month	This Month	People				Vehicles		Avalanche Damaged		
			C	B	I	K	B	D	Bldgs.	Lifts	Misc.
Central and So. Rockies	317	1187	16	7	0	3	1	0	3	0	0
Intermountain	118	581	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Coast	297	1200	21	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Areas	732	2968	43	11	6	3	1	0	3	0	0

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ALPINE SNOW AND AVALANCHE RESEARCH PROJECT
RM STATION FORT COLLINS, COLO.

JANUARY 1985

SUMMARY OF WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS

AREA	SNOWFALL		WATER EQUIVALENT		SNOW DEPTH		TEMPERATURE		WIND SPEED AND DIRECTION		DAYS MISSING
	TOTAL SNOWFALL IN.	MAX IN. 24 HR.	TOTAL WATER IN.	MAX IN. 24 HR.	DAYS MISSING	MIN IN.	MAX DEGREES F	MEAN MIN F	AVG IN.	AVG MPH	
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS											
ARAPAHO BASIN, COLO	40.2	14	2.57	.90	22	49	55	19.8	2.0	10.9	15
ASPEN HIGHLANDS, CO	35.6	11	1.79	.52	22	40	44	25.0	8.3	16.4	15
BEAR LAKE, RMNP, CO	31.9	06	1.31	.43	1	24	27	21.2	11.6	16.4	19
BEAVER CREEK, COLO	59.7	06	3.31	.70	1	38	55	19.5	7.6	19.5	17
BERTHOUD PASS, COLO	49.0	07	3.19	.62	23	47	46	19.5	19.5	19.5	18
BERTHOUD-MINES PEAK											
BRECKENRIDGE, COLO	55.0	06	3.29	.75	22	39	47	20.3	5.8	12.0	16
COPPER Mtn., COLO	50.0	06	2.90	.80	22	32	39	19.0	19.0	19.0	16
CROSTED BUTTE, COLO	23.0	07	1.50	.65	22	37	41	23.6	7.9	15.2	15
GOTHIC, COLO	43.6	06	2.82	1.30	22	45	49	25.4	5.0	11.2	15
LOVELAND PASS, U.S. 6	26.5	07	1.47	.46	22	31	33	30.0	14.7	14.7	15
MARY JANE, COLO	72.5	06	4.08	.72	23	42	51	18.7	2.8	10.8	15
MOMARCH, COLO	47.2	06	2.96	1.40	29	36	43	21.5	6.1	17.1	15
PURGATORY, COLO	27.5	05	1.30	.40	22	61	65	29.0	11.8	18.4	15
SUNLIGHT, COLO	39.0	06	2.39	.63	22	46	51	25.0	11.8	18.4	15
TAOS, NEW MEXICO	47.0	05	2.29	.80	29	75	80	19.6M	6.9	13.3	15
TELLURIDE, COLO	40.5	05	2.29	.50	22	44	50	22.8	7.9	15.3	15
VAIL, COLO	89.5	05	4.78	1.01	22	49	60	22.8	3.7	12.0	15
WINTER PARK 1E, COLO	31.5	07	2.12	.46	22	26	31	25.2	1.3	13.2	15
WOLF CREEK, COLO	71.4	07	2.12	.46	30	89	96	26.8	6.7	16.8	15
INTERMOUNTAIN											
ALTA, UTAH	41.0	07	2.70	.47	1	61	68	28.2	12.7	20.5	10M
BIG SKY, MONT	16.5	09	1.55	.32	19	42	46	23.7	10.0	16.8	10M
BRIDGER BOWL, MONT	39.7	05	2.03	.50	29	52	59	26.9	19.9	22.1	10M
SCHWEITZER BASIN, ID	17.5	05	1.75	.37	1	79	83	26.1	20.3	20.3	10M
SNOWBIRD, UTAH	44.5	05	2.34	.62	1	72	76	31.5	22.0	19.1	10M
SNOW VALLEY, IDAHO	4.0	08	.30	.17	1	40	41	24.3	19.7	10.9M	10M
TETON PASS, WYO 22	10.5	09	.92	.37	1	42	43	22.3	16.6	16.6	10M
WEST COAST											
ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	27.0	08	2.22	.72	29	50	52	35.6	19.1	27.3	75
ALYESKA, ALASKA	54.0	13	17.04	1.85	31	59	66	36.7	29.5	33.1	75
CRYSTAL Mtn 1, WASH	4.2	09	.52	.35	1	49	54	34.0	23.4	33.1	75
CRYSTAL Mtn 2, WASH	4.2	12	.52	.35	1	70	76	34.3M	23.4	33.1	75
Mt. Hood Mtns., ORE.	8.8	05	1.22	.09	1	120	129	35.8	22.6	29.2	75
Mt. Rainier Paradise	24.0	14	1.22	.71	1	122	129	33.1	26.9	29.2	75
Mt. Rose/Slide Mt., NV	24.0	14	1.22	.71	1	122	129	33.1	26.9	29.2	75
MULTIPLY SKI BOWL, OR	4.0	04	.41	.21	1	76	85	37.1	23.0	30.0	75
SNOQUALMIE PASS, I-90	2.0	41	1.53	1.44	1	77	84	29.5M	19.1M	23.0	75
SQUAW VALLEY, CALIF	17.2	23	3.93	2.50	1	61	65	45.9	12.8	23.4	75
STEVENS PASS, WASH	6.5	13	.89	.64	1	78	85	26.0	17.8	21.9	75
SUGAR BOWL, CALIF	22.0	--	--	--	8	95	101	37.6	18.6	28.1	75

-- DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING
M--ONE OR MORE DAYS OF RECORD MISSING-IF AVERAGE VALUE IS ENTERED, LESS THAN 10 DAYS RECORD IS MISSING
IF M IS ENTERED IN WIND SPEED COLUMN, LESS THAN 37 6-HOUR PERIODS ARE MISSING
GE--GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO

JANUARY 1945
AVALANCHE SUMMARY[illegible]